

JAMAICA

NEWS

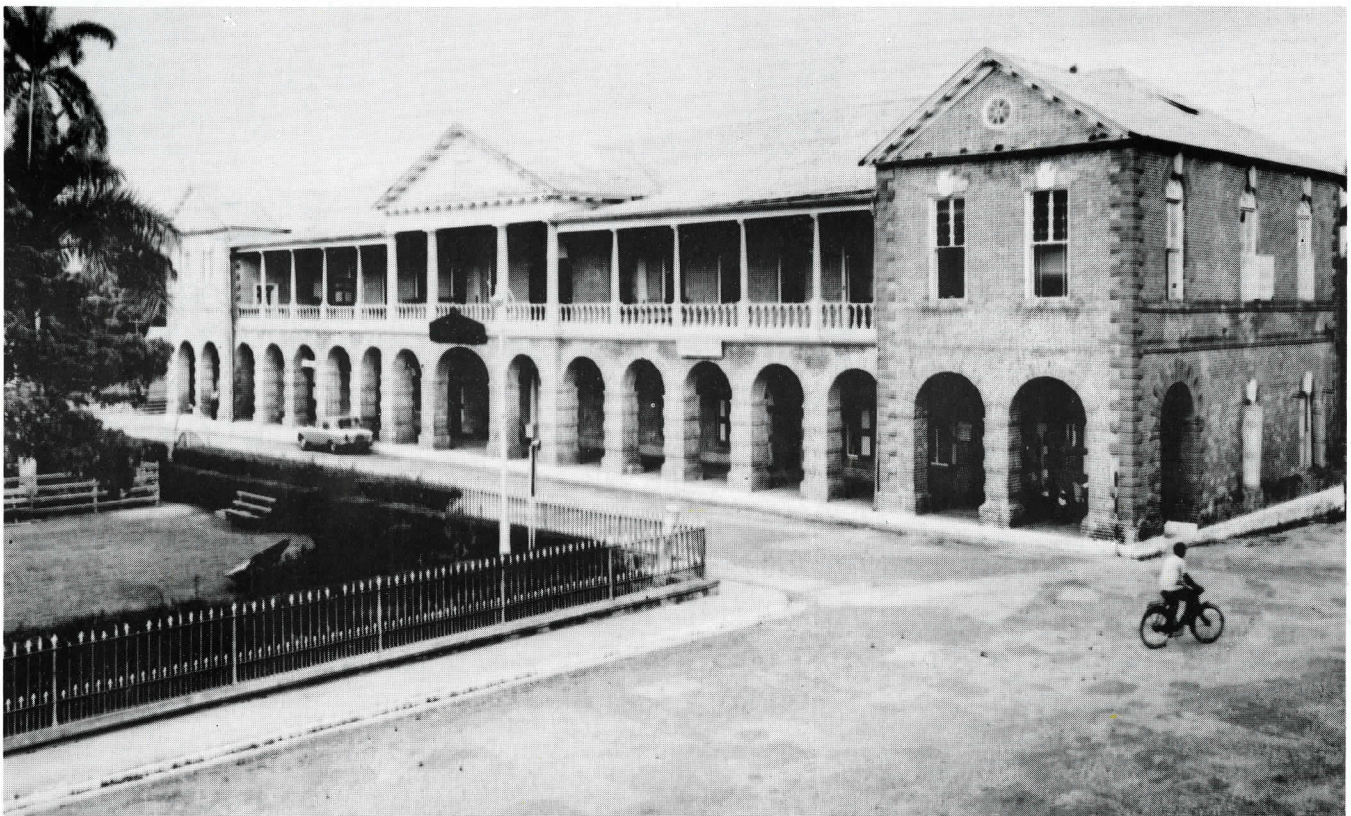


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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1999

Our Heritage



HISTORICAL BUILDING: The old House of Assembly building situated in the Spanish Town Square which now houses the St Catherine Parish Council. This building was erected in 1762.

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EDITORIAL

As the month of October approaches, **Heritage Week** is what comes to mind in Jamaica. This is the month in which we celebrate our National Heritage and pay homage to our heroes who participated in the struggle for our freedom and represent the qualities of patriotism. Their individual achievements are indelibly linked with our sense of nationhood.

Our National Heritage is not just the vast collection of historical data and surviving artifacts. It includes everything — our music, folk customs and beliefs, dress and culinary customs, our dialect, riddles and proverbs.

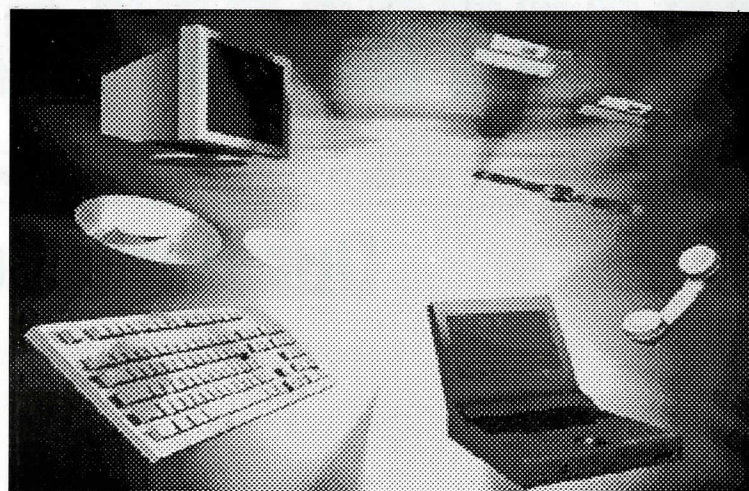
It is with pride that we look at our rich culture which speaks to the unique quality and creativity of Jamaicans and continue to discover the true nature of who we are and where we have come from, for the benefit of future generations.

In celebrating **Heritage Week**, our main thrust is to reflect on some of our past leaders such as Paul Bogle, Nanny of the Maroons, Marcus Mosiah Garvey, Sam Sharpe, George William Gordon, Alexander Bustamante and Norman Manley who all contributed to the social and political development of Jamaica.

This year, **Heritage Week** will be celebrated from October 11 – 18.

'Til next time tek care and walk good!

CARICOM LINKS



Teleconferences on telecommunications

Caribbean and United States technical experts in telecommunications, will hold teleconferences at two-month intervals to discuss and iron out challenges affecting the sector. This was decided at the recently held Third Meeting of Caribbean/United States Joint Committee on Development, Finance and Environmental issues in Washington.

The teleconferences will foster further co-operation in the areas of Human Resource Development while focussing on issues such as electronic commerce, distance learning, dispute resolution and development of strategic alliances in emerging telecommunication markets.

The meeting also agreed to reinforce co-operation with regional agencies and institutions, including the Caribbean Telecommunications Unit (CTU) and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

The Caribbean identified policy, legal and regulatory reform, development of competitive systems in a progressively liberalised regime, international settlement rates, Human Resource Development and development in the Caribbean jurisprudence as the main challenges facing the telecommunications sector.

The Department of State (EB/CIP) and the CARICOM Secretariat will serve as points of contact for the teleconferences. ■

LIFT UP JAMAICA: **The implementation stage**



Members of the Jamaica Defence Force demonstrate their masonry skills as tradesmen from Southern St Andrew look on. The occasion was at the "Lift Up Jamaica" worksite at the Portia Simpson Basic School at Payne Avenue in Kingston.

As a follow-up to Prime Minister Patterson's announcement of a national programme entitled "Lift Up Jamaica", 180 projects have been selected for implementation. In addition to these, each parish outside of Kingston and St Andrew has identified a pilot project, selection based on specific criteria outlined by Prime Minister P.J. Patterson.

Pilot projects are necessary to ensure that any possible "kinks" in the system are identified and corrected.

Original pilot projects in Kingston, the Portia Simpson Basic School at Payne Avenue and the Windward Road sidewalk are progressing according to plan.

Work on the pilots in the different parishes will include general repairs and the cleaning of drains, improvement to parks in towns and river courses, improvement to cemeteries, repairs to public conveniences, general clean-up of markets and clearing of derelict buildings and walkways.

Under the forestry component which will run simultaneously with the 10 pilot Forestry projects now taking place in 10 parishes, the island's watershed areas are to be rehabilitated and some 100 hectares of land planted or replanted. This is to ensure that all our watersheds are reha-

bilitated to encourage a return to "good old Jamaica", the land of wood and water.

Some 3,000 persons will be employed in the production and planting of one million seedlings, the weeding, thinning and pruning of the forestry areas and the maintenance of forest roads.

Preference will be given to employment of persons between the ages of 18 to 30 years living in communities in the vicinity of the project sites. Forty Thousand persons island-wide are expected to be employed at a cost of J\$2.5 billion.

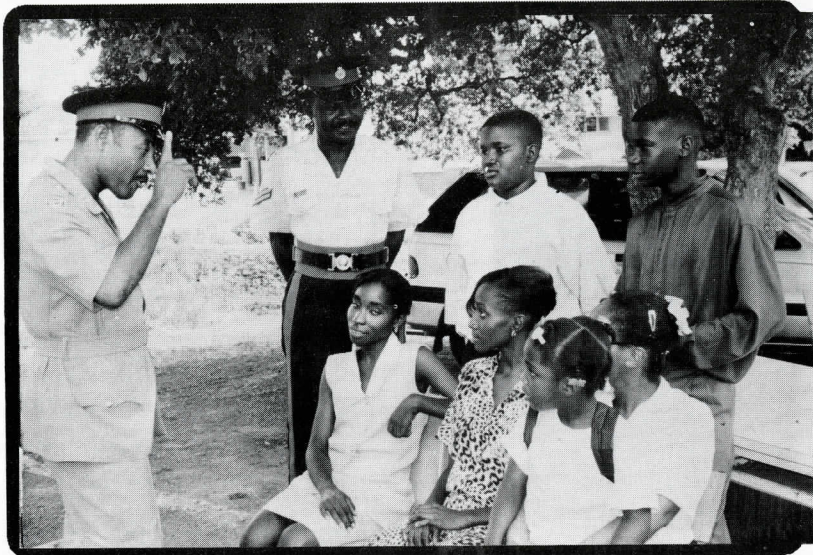
There is a training programme being conducted near the project sites by HEART Trust/NTA for both the forestry component and pilot projects outside the Corporate Area.

Completion of training is a non-negotiable pre-condition for obtaining employment. All prospective workers are required to produce a Tax Registration Number (TRN) to be used as a form of Identification.

This training will have three components — introduction, orientation and socialisation.

The programme is expected to end December 2000. ■

JCF getting more involved with youth groups



The Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) has renewed its efforts to become more involved with youth groups and organisations across the island through an alliance

with the Girl Guides Association and the Boys Scout Movement.

The alliance will provide a channel through which the police can use their leadership skills to

assist the youth to utilise their energy in a positive way.

It is believed that the involvement of the police in the Scout Movement will seek to revitalise and strengthen the organisation which had become unpopular among boys and the new thrust is to expand the Scout Movement to 20,000 members by the year 2004.

With assistance from the Scouts Association, the police have so far trained 55 policemen and women to act as scout leaders. This number is expected to increase as more members of the Force express a willingness to participate.

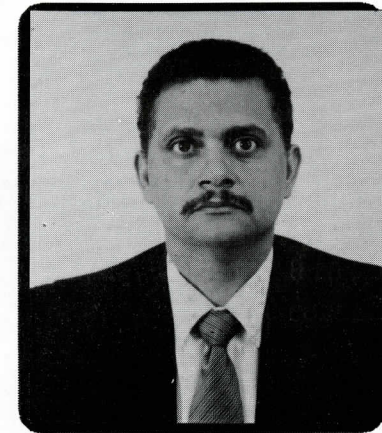
The recruitment of scouts in Hanover has met with success — membership increased from 232 in March 1998, to the current 396 members.

Recruitment of scouts in age groups 7 to 10, 11 to 15 and 16 to 18, is being done in Inner City communities. These areas include Eastern and Western Kingston as well as Southern and Central St Andrew.

In addition to tasks such as maintaining the environment and welfare for the elderly, the youth will learn to develop “an eye for their community which will lead to the maintenance of law and order”. ■

Know your Public Officer

The Contractor-General



The Office of the Contractor-General was established in 1986 after the passing of the Contractor-General's Act in Parliament in 1983. It provides for the operation of an independent body which seeks to ensure efficiency, impartiality and integrity in the awarding of Government Contracts, Licences and Permits.

It also has the responsibility of ensuring that Government Contracts are implemented efficiently, economically and expeditiously through constant monitoring and investigation.

The Contractor-General is appointed by the Governor-General after consultation with the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. His Contract is for a period of seven years and may be renewed for

an additional five years. He can only be dismissed after Parliament orders an investigation, a tribunal appointed and as a consequence, recommends dismissal to the Governor-General.

Responsibilities

The Contractor-General is responsible for:

- monitoring and investigating the award of Government Contracts, Licences and Permits to ensure that there is no impropriety involved.
- examining whether licences are utilized in accordance with the terms and conditions laid down and that their suspension or revocation is done fairly and properly.

Additionally, he may investigate the registration of Contractors; tender procedures for the award of Government Contracts; the implementation of the terms of Contracts and the circumstances under which a licence is granted, issued, used, suspended or cancelled.

Powers of the Contractor-General

He is entitled to be advised of the award of any Government Contract by all Public Bodies

and has access to all books, records, documents, stores or other property belonging to the Government.

He has the right to enter any premises or location where he has reason to believe that there are any records, documents or other property relating to his investigations and can retain such documents.

The Contractor-General may investigate Public Bodies such

Continued on page 6



HELPLINE

How to apply for Jamaican Citizenship registration by virtue of marriage (husband/wife)

Persons who wish to gain Jamaican Citizenship may do so by applying to the Ministry of National Security and Justice, Citizenship Division, 12 Ocean Boulevard in downtown Kingston.

Procedure

- Application should be made (in duplicate) on Registration Form RI which is obtainable at the Jamaica Printing Services, 77^{1/2} Duke Street, Kingston.

- The form should be read carefully, completed and signed in the presence of a Justice of the Peace (JP), a Notary Public or someone authorised to administer oaths.
- These should be submitted to the Ministry of National Security and Justice, accompanied by the following documents:
 - Applicant's Birth Certificate.

Continued on page 5

HELPLINE

Continued from page 4

- Official marriage certificate (Certified Copy issued by the Registrar General)
- Husband's/Wife's official birth certificate
- Husband's/Wife's current Passport
- Two passport-sized photographs of the applicant, certified by a Justice of the Peace
- A Tax Compliance Certificate (if resident in Jamaica)
- A Police Certificate from country of residence.

A fee of Three Thousand Dollars (J\$3,000.00) is charged and should be paid by cash or Manager's cheque. ■

The Contractor-General

Continued from page 5

as Statutory Bodies, any Company registered under the Companies Act, being a Company in which the Government, whether by holding of shares or by other financial input, is in an influential position.

Upon completion of an investigation, he is required to inform the Principal Officer and the Minister having responsibility for the relevant Body, of the result of the investigation; make recommendations and inform anyone upon whom the report reflects adversely, of the substance of the report.

Anyone seeking to obstruct the Contractor-General or his representative in the execution of their duties, or who wilfully makes a false statement to mislead them, commits an offence under the Law.

The Contractor-General reports directly to Parliament by way of special reports or through the annual reports which he is obliged to submit.

The sitting Contractor-General is Mr Derrick McKoy. ■

An Outstanding Jamaican

Gloria Miller



Gloria Miller, a retired Jamaican residing in Brooklyn, has devoted her life not only to health care, but also to community outreach programmes.

After living in England for a while, she migrated to the United States where she continued her work as a Registered Nurse and furthered her education, graduating from St Francis College and the New York University.

In addition to her health care credentials, Gloria also holds a certificate from the Theological Seminary and has given loyal service as a member of the Vestry at St Augustine Episcopal Church.

Ms Miller advanced to management positions and utilised much of her skills in caring for the drug addicted, developing and implementing programmes for the healing process.

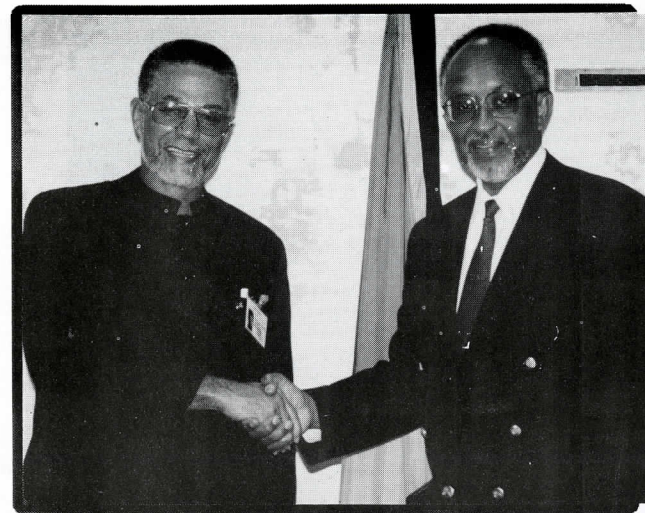
A dynamic woman, even though retired, Ms Miller continues her community involvement which began long before she had time to spare — giving volunteer services to the Caribbean Women's Health Association and the Brooklyn Health Coalition and at Tilden High School where she counsels students on Conflict Resolution.

She is the recipient of the 1999 Dynamic Women's Award.

Jamaica News joins in saluting this dynamic woman whose work continues to focus on the development of her community. ■

Here & There

NEW YORK



Jamaica's Consul-General, Dr Basil K. Bryan welcoming the Hon. Donald Buchanan, Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, to the Jamaican Consulate in New York. Minister Buchanan was in New York representing Jamaica at the Twenty-first Special Session of the UN General Assembly of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).



Jamaica's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Hon. Seymour Mullings (c) shares a light moment with Sir George Alleyne (2nd l) of the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) at Jamaica's 37th Independence Ball held in New York on August 9. Looking on are (l-r) Mrs Alleyne; Jamaica's Consul-General, Dr Basil Bryan and Jamaica's Ambassador to the United Nations, Her Excellency Patricia Durrant.



Jamaican Presidential Classroom students, Felicia Bowes (r) of Wolmer's High School for Girls and Equitable Brown of Camperdown High School recently paid a courtesy call on Jamaica's Consul-General, Dr Basil Bryan at the Consulate in New York. The students participated in a one-week programme in International Government Policy in Washington on the invitation of the Jamaican Consulate, the Wolmer's High School Alumni Association and the Chase Manhattan Bank.

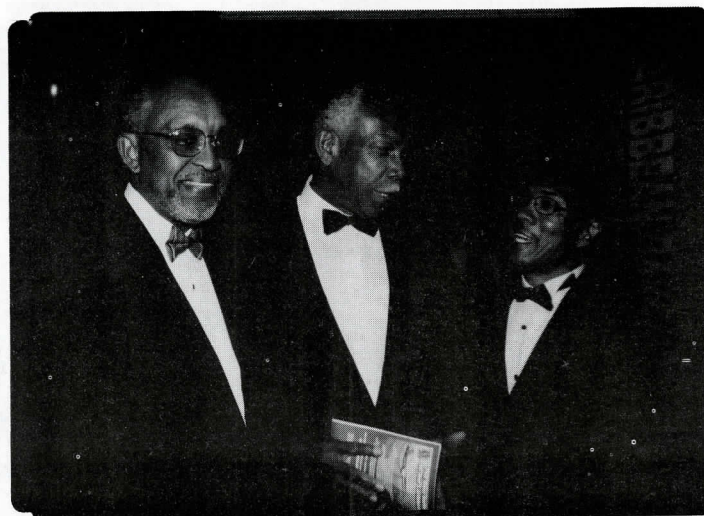


Jamaica's Consul-General to New York, Dr Basil Bryan, receives a Proclamation congratulating Jamaica on attaining its 37th year of Independence from the Hon Noel Spencer, Councilman of Chester, New York. Jamaican-born Councilman Spencer is the first Caribbean/Jamaican to sit on the Council.

Here & There

NEW YORK

Jamaica's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Hon. Seymour Mullings, compliments Tony Kelly (r) of Kello-Graphics on the superb production of the Independence Ball Journal, commemorating Jamaica's 37th Anniversary of Independence. The Minister was a guest at the Independence Ball held at the Hilton Hotel in New York. Also enjoying the moment is Jamaica's Consul-General to New York, Dr Basil Bryan.



MIAMI



Consul-General, Mr John P. Atkins (r), Consul Marsha Coore (l), Accountant, Valrie Findley, accept a cheque for \$5000 from Eric Miller, President of Brooklyn Bottling Company, for sponsorship of the community reception. This presentation was made at the end of the Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving organised by the Jamaican Consulate on Sunday August 1, at the Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Miami.



Jamaica's Minister of Tourism, Hon. Francis Tulloch (l) receives the keys to Miami/Dade County from City Representative, Attorney Marlon Hill, when the Minister met with media and travel industry representatives in Miami recently.

Here & There

TORONTO



His Excellency Raymond Wolfe, Jamaica's High Commissioner to Canada presents Ms Sandra Whiting, President of the Black Business and Professional Association (BBPA) with a Pacesetter Award. Other awardees were Lloyd & Maxine Mitchell, owners of Lloyd's Beauty Salon and Gail Scala, former Editor of the Jamaica Weekly Gleaner and Communication Officer with the Special Investigations Unit (SIU). The presentation was made at the recently held fund-raising event "Strawberry Tea".



Pamela Appelt, Citizenship Court Judge and widow of David Appelt (l) presents Beverly DeGrasse with the David T. Appelt Scholarship. Ms DeGrasse is this year's recipient which is given annually to a person studying Early Childhood Education at the tertiary level. The presentation was made at the recently held fund-raising event "Strawberry Tea".



The 1999/2000 Board of Directors of the National Council of Jamaicans and Supportive Organisation in Canada (NCJSOC) get together after their recently held Annual Conference in Toronto. From (l-r) standing, Carlton Granville, Treasurer; Iris Officer, VP-Northern Ontario; Bill Delisser, Public Relations Director; Olive Steele, Senior VP; Miah Bailey, President; Nyamme Samuels, Executive Director; Noel Alexander, VP-Quebec and Dan Williamson, VP-Central Ontario. Kneeling from (l-r) Debbie Thomas, National Youth Representative; Cecile Locker, VP-Alberta & Northwest Territories; Mavis Palmer, VP-Saskatchewan and Patricia Dennison, Executive Secretary.



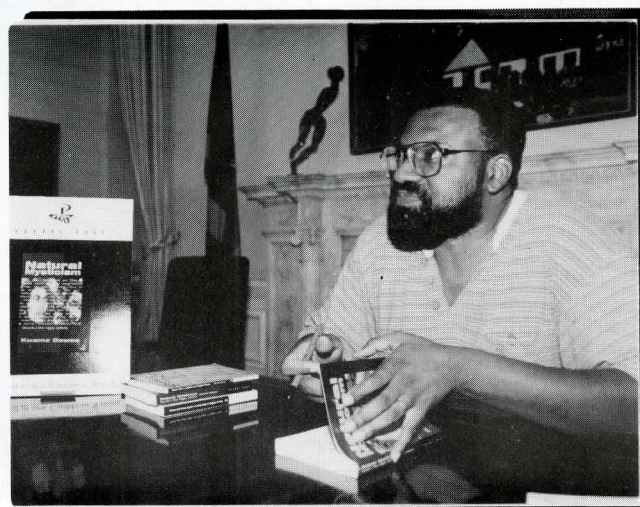
Minister of Tourism, Francis Tulloch (2nd r) with Canadian officials on his recent visit to Canada in continuation of the North American Media Blitz after the gas demonstration in Jamaica. From (l-r) Mr Lawrence Elliot, Executive VP, Canada 3000 Holidays; Ms Susan Webb, VP, Sales & Marketing, Canada 3000; Mr Bert Kameka, Manager of JTB-Toronto and Martha Campbell, Manager of Corporate Communication at Signature Vacations.

Here & There

LONDON



Captain of the Jamaica Netball Team, Connie Francis, receives a birthday gift from Acting High Commissioner, Mr Owen Singh, at a reception held at the London High Commission in July. Sponsored by National Commercial Bank (NCB) and Air Jamaica, the Reception for the national team was held after the team won their second test at Wembley. Team Manager Dorothy Hobson smiles approvingly, while team members look on.



Professor Kwame Dawes signs copies of his latest book "Natural Mysticism" at the launch on June 22nd at the Jamaican High Commission in London. A lively question and answer session followed his presentation.



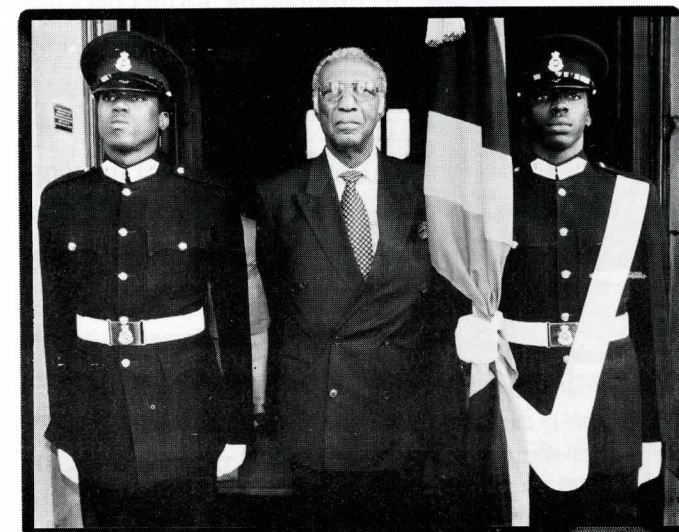
Prime Minister Patterson poses with Caribbean High Commissioners in London after a meeting to brief them of the developments on the banana negotiations. From (l-r) standing are High Commissioners Ron Sanders of Antigua; George Williams of Dominica; L.K. Singh of Guyana; Assad Shoman of Belize and Carlyle Dougan of St Vincent and the Grenadines and Acting High Commissioner Patrick Edwards of Trinidad and Tobago. Seated (l-r) are High Commissioners Arthur Foulkes of the Bahamas; Rouse of Grenada; Prime Minister P.J. Patterson of Jamaica and High Commissioner Patrick Simmons of Barbados.

Here & There

LONDON



Children of the staff of the Jamaican High Commission recite the National Pledge at the annual Independence Service held at St Martins-in-the-Field, Trafalgar Square, London during Independence celebrations in July.



High Commissioner His Excellency the Hon. David Muirhead poses with two young Jamaica Defence Force Cadet Officers who acted as flag bearers at the Independence Service held at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London, during Independence celebrations in July. The service was attended by a wide cross section of Jamaicans in the UK.



Reverend Maitland Evans delivers a powerful sermon to a congregation of patriotic Jamaicans at the Independence Service in July held at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London. The service was organised by the Jamaican High Commission.

PARISH PROFILE

St Catherine

Location

Measured and declared the largest parish, St Catherine is located on the southern coast of Jamaica. It is bounded by St Andrew to the west, Clarendon to the east and St Mary and St Ann to the south.

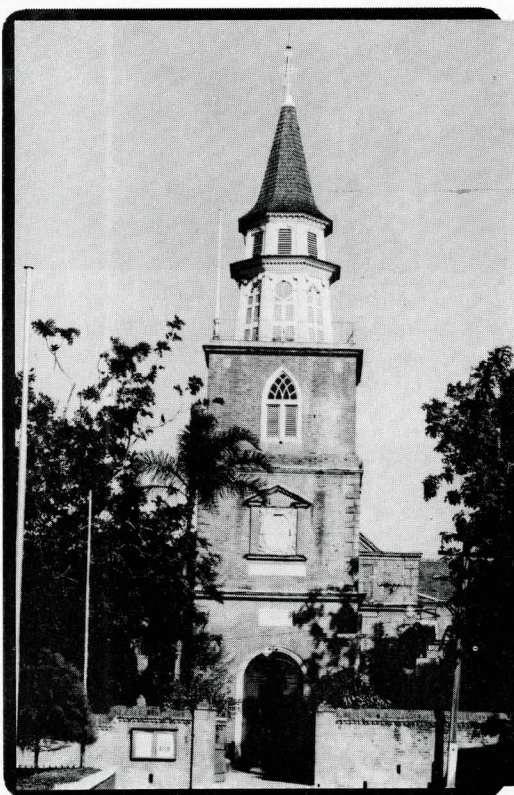
Brief History

St Catherine, which was named for Catherine of Portugal was formed in 1534.

When the first Spanish colonists arrived in 1510 to establish "Sevilla Nueva" (New Seville) in St Ann as the capital of Jamaica, the area was found to be swampy and unhealthy. In order to locate a more suitable site for the capital of this new Spanish possession, Island Treasurer, Pedro de Mazuela, spearheaded a search party.

During the search south across the island, he spotted a wide, fertile plain on the banks of the river which was named the Rio Cobre. This area around the Rio Cobre had been densely inhabited by the Taino tribe prior to the arrival of the Spanish conquerors. The plains, which had been previously cleared and cultivated by the Tainos, were wide and fertile.

Pedro de Mazuela pronounced the area an ideal setting for the new capital and he encouraged colonists from New Seville to settle there. He set things in motion by constructing a sugar mill in the area and by writing to the King of Spain commending the site as a suitable location for the capital.



St James Cathedral (Spanish Town): Built in 1525 on the site of the Spanish Town Chapel of the Red Cross, now stands as the oldest ecclesiastical structure in the British Empire outside of the United Kingdom.

The new capital "Santiago (or St Jago) de la Vega" was established near to Mazuela's mill and was renamed "Spanish Town".

The first King's House (the official residence of the Governor) was built here. The town gradually became the island's administration centre, housing the Parish Council, the House of Assembly and the Supreme Court.

After the Morant Bay Rebellion of 1865, Governor Sir John Peter Grant ordered the removal of the Capital to Kingston which, with its spectacular harbour and major trade links, had come to be considered "the natural Capital of the island". The formal transfer of

the Capital was made effective in 1872. Spanish Town lost much of its life and grandeur after the removal of the capital to Kingston.

In 1867 the number of parishes in Jamaica was reduced from 22 to 14. The boundaries of St Catherine were expanded to incorporate the former parishes of St Dorothy, St John and St Thomas-in-the-Vale.

St Catherine is one of the most stable parishes in the island in terms of industrial development, ranking second to Kingston. Also recognised as a self-sufficient parish, St Catherine is said to have the greatest agricultural potential in the island, owing to its large fertile basin — stretching from Linstead in the centre to Guy's Hill in the north.

Look out for special attractions and points of interest in the next issue.

Tit Bits

EDUCATION

JSCF signs J\$11.5M contract for projects in Portland

Contracts totalling J\$11.5 million have been signed between the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) and four communities in Portland for the establishment of a water supply system in Naylor's Hill; the rehabilitation of the Katus Blakey Dental Clinic in Manchioneal; the construction of the Ginger House Basic School in Ginger House and the construction of the Moore Town Basic School.

Berries Nembhard and Company

Limited has been contracted for the Naylor's Hill Water Supply project which is to be completed within two months. The Katus Blakey Dental Clinic has been contracted to Lotus Constuction Company Limited to be completed in two months.

The construction of the Ginger House and Moore Town Basic Schools is scheduled to be completed in four months and will be carried out by National Technology and Engineering Ltd.

St James Basic School to be refurbished

A J\$4.4 million contract for the refurbishing and expansion of the Niagra Basic School in St James has been signed by the Niagara Citizens Association, the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) and W.A. Reid Construction Company Ltd.

The school currently operates out of a trailer and has 45 students. Two classrooms, a staff room, kitchen, storeroom, sanitary facilities and a

drinking fountain are to be erected to accommodate 65 students.

The Niagra Basic School brings to seven, the number of JSIF projects being undertaken in the Constituency of South St James. The projects include the renovation of the Mocho Basic School, the improvement of the Maroon Town to Flagstaff road, the refurbishing of the Eden Basic School, the upgrading of the Bickersteth Primary School and the enhancement of the Catadupa Water Supply System.

Schools in St Catherine to be rehabilitated

An allocation of J\$7.8 million has been made by the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) to build two additional classrooms, a Principal's office, staff room, sick bay and bathrooms at the Jericho Primary and Infant Schools.

At the Orangefield Basic School

partition walls are to be constructed, roof repaired and septic and absorption pits built.

The Fund was established by the Government in 1996 to help alleviate poverty and to involve persons in community projects. To date, some 172 projects have been funded.

HEALTH

Clarendon gets mobile dental clinic

The Rotary Club of May Pen commissioned into service on Thursday, August 12, a mobile dental clinic which was recently refurbished at a cost of J\$1.8 million.

The clinic will service the parish of Clarendon, provide accessible dental services and enhance the health department's preventative, restorative and dental health education programmes.

Particular emphasis will be placed on providing health care for students in the deep rural areas of the Parish.

The clinic, formerly a mobile home, has been equipped with two dental chairs, an X-ray unit, a sterilisation unit, a stand-by generator, a refrigerator and a reception area to accommodate eight persons.

The project was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the ALCOA Foundation, the Brothers Foundation, JAMALCo, the Rotary Clubs of Moontownship Buloxie in the United States and the May Pen Rotary.

RIDLES & GIGGLES MAY/JUNE ISSUE ANSWERS

1. Old-time iron pot
2. Broken bottle
3. A candle



Tit Bits

HORTICULTURE

Persons who would like to have picnics at Hope Botanical Gardens in Kingston, but do not want the hassle of preparing and packing food, are to benefit from the reopening of the Tea House, a snack bar in the heart of the Garden.



The Tea House, once known for its tea and coffee in the glory days at Hope Gardens, is being rehabilitated and should be back in service shortly.

Extensively damaged by Hurricane Gilbert in 1988 and subsequently vandalised, this project is part of a wider redevelopment of the Gardens.

Upgrading work will involve the renovation of the water fountain and irrigation system and 14 of the fountain's 15 water pumps have been repaired and leaks in the system fixed.

Additionally, about 60 per cent of Palm Avenue, a popular spot for wedding photographs, has been replanted and a new tractor acquired to assist with the maintenance of the grounds.

Refurbishing of the Orchid House, which houses different species of the plant has been undertaken by the Orchid Society with completion to be in December 1999.

An entrance fee is being considered with the hope that this "fee system" will deter vendors. ■

RIDDLES & GIGGLES

1. Who was the faases' runna out of aal de human race?
2. A plane crashed in the east. Where would you bury the survivors?
3. Round as a biscuit, busy as a bee.

Answers in next issue

Did You Know?



That in 1843, the St James Cathedral in Spanisht Town was named the Cathedral of the Anglican Diocese, in honour of the patron saint, St James. The Cathedral is built in the form of a cross. Constructed in brick, it reflects both a Romanesque and Gothic architectural style. The aisles are dotted with tombstones of many notables in Jamaican history?

Situated near the House of Assembly and the Old King's House, the St James Cathedral is currently the chief church of the Anglican denomination in Jamaica and contains the earliest Anglican records, some of which dates back to 1668. ■

Important Dates to Remember

United Nations Day of Peace
September 21

World Tourism Day
September 27

World Mental Health Day
October 10

Heritage Week (Jamaica)
October 11 - 18

World Food Day
October 16

Recipe Corner

Sweet Potato Pone

This sweet potato pudding, or pone as it is called locally, can be eaten hot, when the centre will be gooey and runny, or left until cold and cut as a cake.

750g/1^{1/2} lb sweet potatoes
120g/ 4 oz/1 cup plain flour
750ml/1^{1/4} pint/3 cups coconut milk
225g/8oz/1^{1/3} cups brown sugar
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon grated nutmeg
1 teaspoon ground ginger
225g/8oz/1^{1/2} cups raisins
20g/^{3/4} oz butter, melted.

Topping

2 tablespoons each of coconut oil and honey

Method

- Preheat oven to 180°C/350°F
- Peel and grate sweet potato. Mix with flour, then stir in all other ingredients.
- Pour the mixture into a well greased 20cm/8" square baking tin. Mix together the coconut oil and honey and pour on top.
- Bake in preheated oven for 1^{1/4} hours, or until well browned and cooked.



"There is enough in the world for everyone to have plenty, to live on happily at peace and still get along with their neighbours".

Harry S. Truman

"I am thankful for the adversities which have crossed my path and taught me tolerance, perseverance, self-control and some other virtues I might never have known".

Anonymous

"There are four rungs on the ladder of success: Plan purposefully, Prepare prayerfully, Proceed positively, Pursue persistently".

African-American Folklore

INTERESTING PLACE NAMES

MILK RIVER, in Clarendon, was the Rio do Manatines of the Spaniards. The Mineral Baths situated at the foot of a hill, is of limestone formation, the water which is extremely saline, runs from crevices in the rock directly into the baths, through which it flows at a rate of 240 gallons per minute, or 345,600 gallons per day. Besides being rich in mineral salts, it possesses a high radioactivity which renders it of therapeutic value unsurpassed by any mineral bath in the world.

BULL HOLE, in Manchester, is so named because of a legendary story which declares that at a certain time of the day a roaring sound is heard and the golden table of the folklore appears, only to be quickly pulled beneath the waters by a bull.

Folklore

Here is a peek at some of our Jamaican folklore

- Saturday is an unlucky day to be married, as it is said, the husband will die.
- To get rid of an unwanted visitor, leave a broom behind the door upside down and sprinkle salt on it.
- If you add to a house or cut down an old tree, a goat or chicken should be killed and the blood sprinkled. This will prevent the death of someone in the household.
- The barber who shaves the corpse must walk with his razor as a guard against the ghost.
- A woman will give her husband's new field good luck if she runs around the field naked at 12 o'clock at night.
- The dancing of the right eye means you will have something to laugh about and the dancing of the left eye means something will make you cry.

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you have a friend or relative who might be interested in receiving copies of the Jamaica News newsletter do ask them to write, telephone, fax or e-mail us at:

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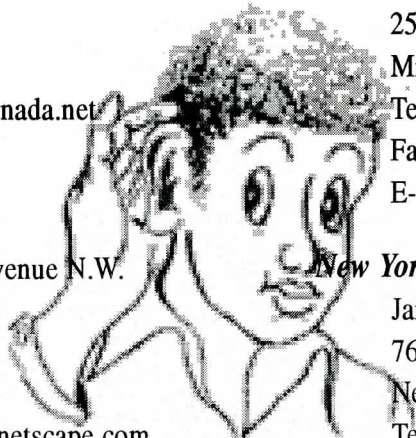
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Jamaica

Jamaica Information Service
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Kingston, Jamaica
E-mail: jis@jis.gov.jm



BOXING DAY 1999

BOXING DAY will be observed on MONDAY, DECEMBER 27 in Jamaica.

Jamaican Consulate, 214 King Street West,
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